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ADDRESS

THE BRETHREN PUB. HOUSE,

ASHLAND, Ashland Co., OHIO.

ASHLAND, O., DEC 8., 1886.

First In the Field.

It has become a custom for people to select their reading matter at this season of the year, and it is therefore the best time for agents to secure subscriptions. Members of the Brethren Church will find in the EVANGELIST, much that will quicken their interest in the work, and an effort ought to be made to call their attention to it before they have selected all the periodicals they feel able to take the coming year. We trust our agents and well-wishers will be active while the season lasts and gather in a large increase to the subscription list for 1887. Sample copies will be sent to any one who may have use for them.

The Skirmishers.

After all it is the skirmishers who are doing a greater work for the Church. We mean by this that the preachers of lesser fame who wander out into new fields and clear the ground are doing the greater work. After a preacher has a series of successes as a revivalist, then his reputation becomes a property of value, and like other property, he studies to take good care of it. Consequently he is very particular about the field that he ventures to work in, and where hopelessness flourishes herself in broad grins he prefers not to work. The skirmishers, therefore, must lead out and clear the ground and prepare the way for success before the notable preacher is willing to venture a work.

We suppose this is all right; it gives the lesser preacher an opportunity to labor in the Lord's harvest. If the notable preached occupied all of the field, then there would be nothing for the lesser to do.

While the work of the skirmisher does not look big, let no one forget that he is worthy of great honor, and the scriptures say that we should give honor to whom honor is due. The man who enters into new fields and has as the ambition of his hope the planting of new churches where there is none is a good soldier of the cross, and their valor is worthy of the highest esteem.

Through Much Tribulation.

Through much tribulation is the way, says the divine record that a class of Christians attained the standing they did.

It is through much tribulation that the work of Christ is being accomplished in the world. It sometimes appears that the Christian, in a measure is to merit his crown of life by enduring in this life. It this be true, then he shall be a victor when he is in possession of the merited reward. Yes, there is an appearance of justice associated with it. We are to show our faith by our works, according to the authority of the epistle of James. It is a work to visit the fatherless and the widows, and to keep yourself unspotted from the world. In doing the latter you must resist the adversary and that causes tribulation. Cursed is the man of whom all speak well. He cannot be the true servant of God. Every one who opposes sin will be opposed, and difficulties will follow in the train.

Sin is a mighty power in the world and it shall remain mighty until the fountains of eternal fire are broken up and it is made helpless by its consuming forces.

But to the Christian, the tribulation that he passes through cannot touch the soul. It is beyond the reach of the powers of darkness, and its life is hid with Christ in God. It is only the affliction of persecution which he must endure, and each one, even as a messenger of peace, points to a better time beyond. Let the Christian then rest his desires upon the anchor of hope and press onward in the contest against sin and the adversary, and fight the good fight of faith. When the victory is won, which will be through the Lord Jesus Christ, the joys of heaven will be realized more fully, and the association with God and the redeemed in the heavenly home will be more sweet.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

A survey of the correspondence this week shows that the church is alive in the Master's work in all parts.

If you want a short tract on baptism, the Love Feast, the New Birth, or the fundamentals of the Brethren Church, to use in your work, send six cents in stamps for the four named above. Examine them, and if they are what you want, send for a quantity.

Mr. George Moherman, who is well known to many of our readers, was killed on a crossing of the N. Y. P. & O. railroad, west of Ashland, last Saturday, and a young man who was with him, sustained such injuries that he died on Sunday night. The horse was also killed and the carriage destroyed. He was considered one of the most careful men, and was interested in various enterprizes in this place, and it seems that it can not be that he and a companion could be caught squarely on a crossing and struck by an express train running at the rate of almost a mile per minute. But such was the case. Indeed, how uncertain is life. Without warning that we are able to see or heed, we are swept from the mortal stage in the twinkling of an eye.

Bro. J. W. Smouse is greatly encouraged over good work being done in the Conemaugh church, Pennsylvania.

The meetings at the College Chapel are passing nicely. The good spirit is with us.

Susan Miller orders us to send her paper to Bristol, Ind., instead of Louisville, Ohio. Now we do not send a paper to Susan Miller at Louisville. Who will tell us who is meant.

Bro. R. F. Mallott dedicated a church to the service of God for the Brethren church at Dallas Center, Iowa, on the 28th. May the Lord bless the brethren in their new home.

Bro. A. Crisamore, of Everest, Brown county, Kansas, invites brethren who wish to locate in the West to consider the advantages of that locality.

Bro. P. J. Brown and brother Mason were with us last Friday, and brother Brown preached at the College in the evening. His sermon was an interesting one, and was appreciated by the students and the remainder of the congregation. On Saturday morning they left for Farmersville.

We extend the hand of fraternal greeting to Bro. Samuel Kiehl, over the action of the Court in continuing the Dayton Church property case till next June, and thus allowing the Brethren to continue to use the place that has become dear to them. In the mean time we hope some good influence will operate upon the plaintiffs in the case, the German Baptists, to consent to an equitable division of the property.

Bro Mallott will please have compassion on our new correspondents. They want to see how their initials look in print under their own articles before they venture in writing their whole name. Modesty is a virtue, even though it may sometimes prevent the giving of full satisfaction.

Bro. G. A. Copp says, if his health permits, which is not now very good, he will visit all the Brethren families in his locality and try to get them to take the paper. This is what we like to hear. It means that they expect to maintain a live church and do what they can to help along the department of literature.

Bro. S. W. Wilt, of Terra Alta, W. Va., will commence a protracted meeting at Uniontown, Pa., on the 11th.

Bro. E. L Yoder wrote on the 29th, that he was about ready to start to Falls City, Nebraska. At this time, if there was no break in his arrangements, he is there.

We print elsewhere a clipping from the *Wooster Republican* which gives some idea of the scope of Bro. Brown's Lecture. It pleases because he tells the truth about the curious and interesting scenery of the wonderful Pacific country, and it amuses because he paints in words the living ways of the people out there.

Brother E. R. Holsinger visited Ashland last week, after he left Dayton where he had been called to assist in arranging matters concerning the church-property case. We were glad to meet him again. Brethren at home were anxious to know "how he appeared," and, surmising there are others who feel interested in an answer to a similar question, allow us to say that he appeared as a Christian should. He left on Thursday night for Tiosa, Ind., where he will take part in adjusting some church business, and he will remain in that State two or more weeks.

Blanco, Pa.

I left my home and family on the 4th of November for the Indian Creek congregation, "Valley Meeting House," in Westmoreland County, Pa., to assist in holding a series of meetings and a love feast. Our congregations were generally small, but a good interest was manifested, and during my stay with the congregation three made the good confession, and were added to the number of the disciples by being baptized into Christ. Hope others have since followed their good example, as the meeting was continued by the home ministry.

From Indian Creek I started on the 15th, for Warriors Mark congregation to preach for a church of 12 sisters. Commenced meeting on the evening of the 16th, and continued until the evening of the 28th. During this meeting two were added by relation, a brother and his wife. Two were added by Christian baptism, one a young lady, and the other past 75 years of age, who had been a consistent member of the Lutheran church over 57 years. When she came forth out of the baptismal fount her daughter remarked: "mother that is better than infant baptism." This meeting closed with a large congregation and a good interest. Elder D. Crofford, of Johnstown, will break the bread of life to the church at Warriors Mark for an indefinite length of time. May God bless his labors and the labors of all who may hold forth the word of life in that place. Elder John Law, of the German Baptist church, of that place, attended some of the meetings and rendered me much assistance. May God's choice blessings rest upon him for his Christian labor.

Those whose hospitality I shared while among them will please accept my sincere thanks, and may the choice blessings of our heavenly Father rest upon them all. I feel it a duty to thank all for the substantial aid rendered. Hope they may receive a hundred fold in this life, and that we all may be happy in eternity. My next trip is arranged for "Red Bank." May God bless his loved ones there, and give them success.

J. B. WAMPLER.

Dec. 3rd, 1886.

Akron, Ind.

On Friday, Nov. 26th, brother Wm. W. Summers, of North Manchester, Ind., came to Akron, and held meeting in the Advent church, with a full house and the best of attention. The people of Akron were well pleased with his discourse. His subject was in Isaiah thirty second chapter and second verse. The next morning, Saturday, went to the Prills school house to hold an election for two deacons, at eleven a. m., services commenced. We presented before the minds of the Brethren the object of our coming together. The choice fell upon brethren David Bryant and Eugene H. Ralston. The Brethren made a few resisting remarks, but as they are full of energy and zeal for the cause of Christ and with a few kind remarks from Bro. Wm. Summers and myself, they accepted. The work was soon finished by the laying on of hands and praying. Bro. Summers officiated in the work. The Brethren are much encouraged and looking forward to the time when we will have more help in the ministry. To-night we have prayer and social meeting at Bro. Bryant's. We have such meetings once and sometimes twice a week, and have had during the last year.

NOAH HEETER.

Things In General Some Things In Particular.

Let Your Light Shine.—Your spiritual and intellectual light, certainly, but the light I have reference to now comes from a lighted wick soaked in coal oil. Any thing but a dark dingy church, how many churches have their lamps neither trimed nor burning brightly, oil has not been changed for six months, some of the chimneys broken, others smoky. Oh my, what poor lights some churches have, and coal oil so cheap. Have your churches well lighted, and you will find the interest greater.

A New Verse For An Old Hymn.—Rev. Harvy Briggs, contributes the following verse to the well known hymn: "Almost Persuaded." He says he does not like a hymn to end in despair, but prefers to offer hope at the last moment. The point is well taken, though I would suggest the word obey as a substitute for "believe" for obedience to Christ includes believe. The verse is as follows:

"Almost persuaded," tempt not the doom,
"Almost persuaded," yet there is room,
Now the new life begins,
Mercy is more than sin.
Jesus will take you in,
Only believe."

Character vs. Reputation.—Character is the solid stone in the building. Reputation is the painting put on the stone, one man may not like the color and scratch it, what of that, so the stone stands in place, more paint can be put on, one man may not like another man's work, he condemns it, and men say he has lost his reputation, what of that if he was true to conviction, and conviction is based on God's word, let reputation go, only so character remains. What God knows of us is more important than what man says of us. It is better to obey God than man.

The Church-Members Hand-Book, has been increased from 48 to 60 pages, this accounts in the difference of some statements. Its object is to develop spirituality and is undenominational, you can hand it to any church member, members of the tract society will receive a package in due time. We have in preparation The Brethren Hand Book and the Bible Reader's Assistant. Something every Bible reader will appreciate. We will send a copy free to any one who orders a copy of the C. M. Hand-Book between now and Jan. 1st.

"No Pain."—How those words impressed me. Thank God there is no pain in heaven, the inhabitants never say I am sick, heaven is a healthy place. There is a bow spanning the heavens, Bro. Mason. God is good, and all things, yes, even death, will work for good, you do not see it now, but you shall after while. Your loved-ones have only gone home.

"Then why should your tears run down
Or your heart be sorely riven, [crown,
There's another gem in the Saviour's
Another soul in heaven."

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

Pure Religion.

Pure religion and undefiled is "ministering," not the other thing—"being ministered unto." It is handing over the morning paper to another for first perusal. It is vacating a pleasant seat by the fire for one who comes in chilled. It is giving the most restful arm-chair or sofa corner for one who is weary. It is "moving up" in the pew to let the new-comer sit down by the entrance. It is rising from your place to darken the blind when the sun's rays stream in too brightly upon some face in the circle. It is giving up your own comfort and convenience every time for the comfort and convenience of another. This is at once true courtesy and real Christianity."—Rev. A. L. Stone.

We come across beautiful characters in the most obscure paths of life, even as we find the loveliest palaces.

Personal Memoirs of Gen. Robt. E. Lee.

The whole world has bought and read the "Personal Memoirs" of Gen. Grant, and now following upon this we have the announcement of the publication of the "Persona Memoirs" of Gen Lee. This is as it should be for it will bring up for comparison and criticism the individual histories of these two great military chieftains, who, like Greek meeting Greek, led the opposing hosts in the final struggles of the great rebellion.

Gen. Lee's Memoirs will be issued in one volume, but it will contain more matter than both volumes of Gen. Grant's memoirs, as the pages are much larger. The price will also be very low, and the indications are that the sales will be the largest ever known for any book published in this country. One house alone has contracted for 125,000 copies and the publishers expect to print 500,000 in the first edition. The book is to be issued simultaneously in the United States and Europe, and we learn that the demand in the old country is the greatest ever known for an American book. This is particularly so in France and Germany where the military spirit runs so high, and where Gen. Lee's genius as a soldier was so greatly admired. The book will be sold exclusively by subscription, and firms desiring agencies will find the advertisement in another column of this paper. The work is creating a decided ensation and will no doubt have a large sale

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